



The Barnabas Factor: Realize Your Encouragement Potential

The Possibilities of Encouragement

Scheduled Lessons

- **Aug 2** **The Lips of an Encourager**
- **Aug 9** **The Hands of an Encourager**
- **Aug 16** **Courage to Build: Nehemiah**
- **Aug 23** **Courage to Bloom: Barnabas**
- **Aug 30** **Courage to Believe: Jesus**
- **Sept 6** **Courage to Battle: God the
Father**



Introduction to tonight's lesson

- **Encouragement is the process of inspiring others to live with greater hope and courage**
- **It is the ability to leave people feeling more positive and confident after interacting with them**
- **This coveted commodity can change the course of a person's day or destiny!**



The Possibilities of Encouragement

- Encouragement zones
- Encountering obstacles
- Essential to Christianity
- People need encouragement
- Motivating the unmotivated
- Ten Reminders for encouragers



Encouragement Zones

- **An asset needed in every sphere of life**
- **God's intent for local church—supreme encouragement zone**
- **Satan attempts to offer counterfeits**



Encouragement Zones

- Recognize universal desire—connect & converse
- How can various realms of my life be turned into encouragement zones?
- How do people feel as a result of being with me?

A silhouette of a person standing on a dark, rocky cliff edge. The person is facing away from the camera, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape. The background is a bright, golden sunset or sunrise, with a large, glowing sun partially obscured by clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and dramatic.

Encountering Obstacles

- **Society's definition—success in terms of superiority**
- **Seclusion—cannot be selfish or unsociable**
- **Low self-esteem—difficult to relate well**
- **Lack of experience—learned skill that takes plenty of practice**
- **Inadequate commitment—understands and practices the stewardship of relationships**



Essential to Christianity

- **Build up—Acts 20:32**
- **“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”**

Essential to Christianity

- **Rom. 15:2**--Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up.
- **1 Cor. 8:1**--Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.
- **1 Cor. 14:2**--So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.

Essential to Christianity

- **2 Cor. 10:8**--So even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than tearing you down, I will not be ashamed of it.
- **2 Cor. 13:10**--This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority—the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.

Essential to Christianity

- Eph. 4:16--From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
- Eph. 4:29--Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

1 Thess. 5:10-12

He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who instruct you.


Motivating the Unmotivated

- **Two forms of motivation: intrinsic or extrinsic**
- **Boils down to relating well and caring deeply**
- **Important to develop encouragement skills**
- **Students come to class with hunger for love, recognition, affirmation and respect.**
- **Managers—distant & manipulative or respect for others' dignity, integrity, and individuality pays rich dividends!**

People Need Encouragement

- People want to know that they are valued and that someone believes in them.
- This is the goal of encouragement!
- Human growth and development in all aspects of life require encouragement!
- Bible class teachers in their role
- Students who come to class




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Ten Reminders for Encouragers

- Every act of encouragement is an act of love for Christ (Matthew 25:40).
- Remember that one day you must account for every relationship that God has placed in your care.
- Daily privilege and responsibility
- God encourages and comforts us daily
- Christian assemblies designed to be a place where all of this can happen (Heb. 10:24,25).

Ten Reminders for Encouragers

The background of the slide is a photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sky is filled with vibrant orange and yellow clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow. In the foreground, the dark silhouette of a person stands on a beach, looking out towards the water. The overall mood is peaceful and inspiring.

- Golden Rule—encourage as you would want to be
- People are inclined to treat you the way you treat them
- Heavenly trusts of time, talent and treasures vouchsafed to us for encouraging others
- Prize people
- Every encouragement is an act of love for God (1 John 4:20-21)

Break into groups & discuss

- 1. What does it mean that Christians are stewards of their relationships?**
- 2. Why do we tear people down instead of build them up?**
- 3. Where did you experience encouragement the most this week?**